



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Great Places Citizen Advisory Board meets Monday to identify three pilots

**DES MOINES** – The Great Places Citizen Advisory Board will meet at 7:30 a.m. Monday at the State Historical Building in Des Moines to identify three pilot Great Places.

Board members this month traveled across the state for Great Places offer presentations from 73 places. The state will negotiate partnership agreements with the three pilot places to help them achieve their Great Places visions, targeting existing state resources and programs for maximum impact and leverage.

The Great Places initiative was launched by Governor Tom Vilsack earlier this year as a challenge to Iowans to be bold and creative as they transform what is unique, genuine and authentic about Iowa into great places for people to live and visit. More than 1,000 Iowans attended Great Places forums all across the state in May and June. By the July 1, 2005 deadline, 146 places from 94 counties submitted invitations to the state to partner with them to become Great Places. More than 75 trained coaches from about 20 state agencies were deployed in teams throughout Iowa this summer to work with places on their visions and offer presentations.

Governor Vilsack will formally announce the three pilot places October 11 during the Iowa Great Places Conference at Hancher Auditorium and Levitt Center at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. The conference will celebrate all places that participated in the Great Places process and will feature workshops related to place development, marketing and other topics. The event is in conjunction with "Visions in Focus" from 1 to 9 p.m. Richard Florida, author of *Rise of the Creative Class* and *Flight of the Creative Class*, will be the keynote speaker. The conference is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit [www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov) or call 515-281-3223.

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#### Citizen Advisory Board:

Bill Menner  
Chair  
Grinnell

Robin Anderson  
Vice-Chair  
Mason City

David Bernstein  
Sioux City

Claire Celsi  
Des Moines

Samantha Erickson  
Pleasant Hill

Mark Ginsberg  
Iowa City

Tom Hanafan  
Council Bluffs

Quentin Hart  
Waterloo

Terry Lynch  
Marion

Gil Spence  
Dubuque

Amanda Styron  
Mount Pleasant

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Davenport